Friends of Christ Church Cathedral

Newsletter

Vol. 22 No. 1
ISSN 0791-2331

Spring 2004
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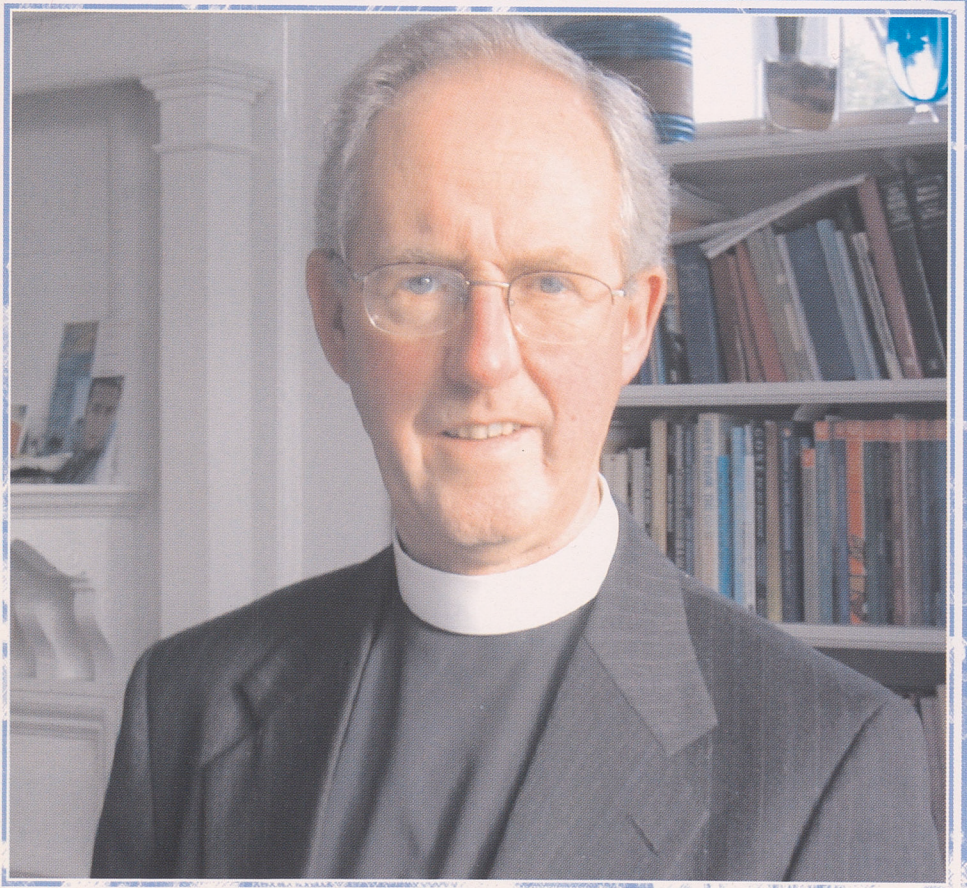

Friends of Christ Church Cathedral Newsletter
is published by
The Friends of Christ Church Cathedral, The Chapter House, Christ Church Place, Dublin 8

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Minimum subscriptions: Within Ireland - €12.70. Overseas - $20
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Front cover
The new Dean of the Cathedral- The Revd Canon Desmond Harman
Back cover
A relaxed Dean John and his wife Patricia

Origination and Printing by Fodhla Printing Company Limited, Dublin

Contents

Letter from your Editor 2
Lesley Rue

Dean's Vicar's Letter 3
Revd. Mark Gardner

How to Sleep Well 4
Revd. David Greer

New Dean of Christ Church Cathedral 7

Ringing-in the New Year 8
Leslie Taylor

London Tour 9
Canon William Marshall

Epiphany - The Dean's last service 10
Ray Rafausse

Dean's Presentations 11
Lesley Whiteside

Membership Secretary 13
Fred Gray

Dean Paterson remembers some Cathedral Ventures 1989-2004 14

From the Cathedral Administrator 15
Mark Bowyer

Photo News 16

Christ Church Lectures 18
Stuart Kinsella

History of the Cathedral chairs 22
Fred Gray

My First Christmas in Ireland 24
Anja Zimmer

Christmas services - Advent & Christmas Eve 25
Terry Lilburn & Anngret Simms

Parish Readers 27

Friends' Quiz 27

Who's who in the cathedral 30

Subscription form 31

Calendar of events ..... Inside back cover

From your editor

LESLEY RUE

A lot of things have happened since the last Newsletter. We said "farewell" to Dean John and his wife Patricia on 6th January. We wish him a healthy and happy retirement. The cathedral also says "goodbye" to the administrator, Mark Bowyer. We wish him well as he goes to St Canice's Cathedral in Killkenny. We also wish the Dean's P.A., Aisling Sheridan, well as she goes to the opposition, St. Patrick's Cathedral.

I would like to welcome our new Dean, Desmond Harman, with his wife Susan and family. His installation will take place on Monday 26th April 2004 at 8.00 p.m.

I am delighted to say that I now have a sub-committee to help me with the production of the Newsletter, I welcome Stella Mew and Terry Lilburn on board.

In this issue, Lesley Whiteside and Ray Rafausse have written about Dean John's last service and his presentation. There are reports of most of the Christmas services which took place in the cathedral. The Revd. David Greer has written an article, "How to sleep well" and we have the usual features. There is also a quiz in this issue – please take part, you might even win.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Fred Gray who proof read the Newsletter over the past year. This job is undertaken by Stella Mew now. I would like to thank everyone who wrote articles for this edition of the Newsletter and I hope you all enjoy reading it.

Lesley

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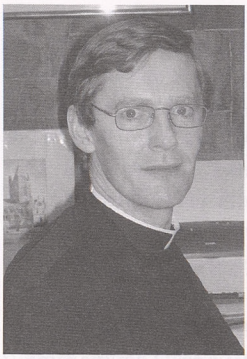

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Revd. Mark Gardner

Dear Friends

The season of Candlemas in the Church's year, wherein I write, is a bitter-sweet season of looking back and looking forward, back to the birth of Christ and forward to the events of the Passion. It would be easy to say that this is a turning point of the year – we always seem to be at a turning point! All the more so this year as we look back on the long ministry of John Paterson here, and all that was good in those days, but are compelled now to look forward to the beginning of the ministry of a new Dean.

We welcome Dean Harman as a friend of long standing and one who has already given many years of diligent service to the Cathedral. We hope that he and his family will enjoy many more years of association with Christ Church, and guiding the future of this ancient place. The installation, at 8.00pm on Monday 26th April next, feast of St. Mark the Evangelist (transferred), will mark a new beginning.

Looking back now, it is a good time to remember those who have served here over the last fifteen years and more, and to say "thank you" for so much that has been given and for so many things that have been achieved. Chiefly, thanks and good wishes for future health go to Dean John and Mrs Patricia Paterson. We hope they will enjoy many years of well-deserved recreation in retirement.

Among the many thanks that have been offered, the most important thanksgiving of all is the one offered in the Church service, where 'at all times and in all places it is right to give thanks and praise' to God. To the Friends of Christ Church who help to make it possible for the Church to make this offering, in this place, our hearty thanks.

Mark

How to Sleep Well

Extracts from a Presentation by Rev. David Greer, President of "Foundation Ministries" to the Cathedral Discussion Group.

***Psalm 4:8** "I will both lay me down in Peace and Sleep, for thou alone O Lord makest me to dwell in Safety"*

Being able to sleep well is a great blessing and one which many wish for daily. G.P's tell us that at least half their patients attending a clinic request some form of sedative or sleeping pill. There is, of course, a very real danger that sleeping pills can become addictive, rather like the elderly hospital patient who rolled over in her bed at nearly midnight and said to the patient in the next bed, "I do wish Sister would come with our sleeping pills; I can hardly keep my eyes open!"

What I want to share with you now, works for me; it may not work for you, but in more than 20 countries across the world I have shared this remedy, and many testify to its practical and common sense value. I do want to say that there may be times in all of our lives, when, as a result of particular stressful events, some form of sleeping medication may be necessary. I, too, have felt such a need at times in my life.

In the Psalm noted earlier, the Psalmist emphasises two important elements necessary for good restful sleep. These are 1. **Peace** and 2. **Safety**

Now, let us examine this word PEACE. In my thoughts there are three kinds of peace which I believe are necessary for a good night's sleep.
First, PEACE WITH GOD.
Both the apostle John and the apostle Paul speak regularly of the fact that we can know "Peace with God, through our Lord Jesus Christ."
For all of us, we are conscious, if we are conscious of anything, that in our heart there is what Paul called a bias, a tendency toward evil, which we ourselves are powerless to conquer. Paul says, "The good that I would, I do not, and the evil I would not, that I do". I am the same, so are you, if you are really honest. Let's be honest, left to ourselves we are powerless to be right with God. We offend Him, and disobey His Word by sins of omission and sins of commission every day. So when we lie down at night and seek to sleep, our conscience tells us that all is not well between us and our maker. There, and in that very reality, is the glorious potential for us to receive the "peace" of which I speak. Christ is our peace. In Him we have peace with God. He paid for, and carried all our shortcomings, our faults, our sins, our weaknesses, indeed all the flaws of our nature, on the Cross. God was satisfied with His sacrifice, and if I accept Him as my substitute, my Saviour, my sin-bearer, then I am at Peace with God. When God looks on my failings he sees them not covered, but cleansed at the Cross. This message is at the very heart of Christianity, and the simplicity of it has worried theologians for centuries... but it works for me! Do you know, and do you have this peace yourself, now?

Secondly, I believe we should be at PEACE WITH ONE ANOTHER. The Commandments exhort us to Love our neighbour. Being honest, I must confess that I find it hard to like some of my neighbours, let alone love them. There are people who are very difficult to live with, to work with, to socialise with, even to worship with. God knows that. That is why He has given us the power to love.

It is in surrender to Him that we can know His love at work in us and through us. However, even when we do love, there are times when we differ, and those differences can provide friction and tension in a relationship, and can lead to anger and bitterness. Then we can lose our peace with one another. The Bible tells us "Do not let the sun go down on your wrath" ... in other words, do not go to bed angry.
Do not end the day being angry or bitter with another, whether it be your wife, or husband, your partner, or children, or parents or neighbours or friends. Put things right, if at all possible, so that you can lie down "in peace". If you have wronged someone, or fallen out over some issue, be bold enough, and Christian enough, to take the first steps to reconciliation. Again, I recall the Biblical exhortation that "a quiet word turns away anger" Someone may be waiting on you right now to make that phone-call, that apology, that step towards peace. If they throw stones at you for it, you can lie down in the knowledge that at least you have done your part, and you can know peace.

Thirdly, you should be AT PEACE WITH YOURSELF. We can have experienced peace with God, and peace with our neighbour, but still be at War with ourselves. God has blessed most of us with a reasonable memory. I also have been blessed with a good forget -ory! Some of us find it very difficult to forget the things in our past of which we are none too proud! Let me remind you that the past, even the dark past, has made you what you are today. Hopefully for most of us, that means we are older and wiser, and less likely to make the mistakes of our youth or otherwise again. Yet in spite of that, while we know and enjoy God's forgiveness, we are often unable to forgive ourselves, and thus we lose our peace. Don't "beat yourself up" over the failings of your past; rather use the past to build more wisely for the future. This is particularly relevant to those of you who are parents. Being honest and open with your children, and owning up to your "youthful failings" can be a real and positive support for their characters and an influence for their good. We all know that humanity, left to itself, apart from God, will fall far short. That is why, in our weakness, God sent His son, to be our Strength. If God has forgiven you, forgive yourself, and get on with your life!

I firmly believe that to possess this threefold peace will most certainly ensure you sleep better, and sleep well.

Now I come to the second element of the Psalmist's testimony, that of SAFETY.

As a child I was rarely afraid. Only one thing troubled me, and it still does a little to this day. I was afraid of a storm - a windy night! I can live with fog, with snow, with floods, with icy roads and much else that nature can throw at me, but when she throws a tree across the road, or uplifts a roof, or hurls a truck over a cliff, then I am afraid. All this fear stems from a stormy night when I was a boy of about four or five years old. In a violent wind, the roof of a nearby shed was lifted and landed in our garden. I feared that the next night the roof of our house would meet a similar fate! So I was led tearfully into my parents' bedroom, and nestled between Mother and Father for the night. Now, the fear was gone; it seemed to me that it didn't matter if the roof blew away, I was safe!

To feel safe, and especially to feel safe at night is a real blessing. Safety is built when we REALISE GOD'S PRESENCE, REST ON GOD'S PROMISES, REJOICE IN GOD'S PROTECTION AND RECEIVE GOD'S PEACE. His PRESENCE can be assured, since He has promised, "I will never leave you or forsake you". The Psalmist in other places acknowledges that it is not possible for us to get away from God, wherever we go He will be

there, the Rock of Ages in which we can shelter in every storm. Some sing, "I'll walk with God", but God will walk with you too.

His PROMISES are not only relevant to great apostles and preachers, but are for you and me to claim as ours on a daily basis. I read somewhere that there are more than 13,000 promises in the Bible. You remember when Peter was imprisoned and likely to be beheaded. We read, "Peter was bound between two prison guards, and was fast asleep." If I were likely to lose my head in the morning, I could be forgiven for not sleeping! How was it possible then that Peter could sleep? It seems to me significant that the writer uses the word "fast" to describe the soundness and depth of his restful sleep. Peter slept, because of a promise. Some time earlier the Lord had mentioned to Peter that now as a young man he could do what he liked, but when he was old, others would do for him things he might not like. Peter was not yet "old" and Jesus had promised him he would be old some day. If God knows about your future as well as your present, it seems to me that you should rest in the promises that make that future safe. Nothing can happen to me or you today that God does not already know about. What safety!

This leads me nicely into the aspect of God's PROTECTION. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus spoke of the fact that we should never be anxious about life. "Not a sparrow falls to the ground but that your Heavenly Father knows," he said, "You are of more value than many sparrows". How precious and valued we are in the eyes of God. "Even the hairs on your head are numbered" - and if God is concerned about such an insignificant thing as the hairs on my head, how much more will he order the major things in my life that could cause me anxiety. When we go out in the morning, or when we lie down at night, God knows, and will order all things so that they will "work together for our good, and his glory".

So when we experience His Presence, His Promises and His Protection, we can certainly have His Peace. The PEACE of God, says the apostle Paul, "passes all understanding". And if Paul could not understand it, neither can I. However, I do not have to understand it to enjoy it. Like electricity, I do not understand how an invisible power can give me heat and light, power my computer, or put music in my electric piano.... but I do not have to understand it to enjoy its benefits every day. I may not understand all the theology I'd like to, but I know this, that when I lie down at night, I am at Peace, and in Safety. It works for me. I do hope you will find help in this message, and that God will bless you through it.

New Dean of Christ Church Cathedral

The Archbishop of Dublin has appointed the Reverend Canon Robert Desmond Harman, MA, to be the next Dean of Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin and Incumbent of the Cathedral Group of Parishes, as successor to the Very Reverend J. T. F. Paterson BD, who has retired.

Canon Harman (62) was educated at Sligo Grammar School and at Trinity College Dublin, where he studied Hebrew and Oriental Languages. He was ordained in 1967 and served six years as curate-assistant of Taney, followed by thirteen years as Rector of Santry and Glasnevin. Since 1986, he has been Rector of Sandford and Milltown, chaplain of Alexandra College, Bloomfield, Westfield, New Lodge and the Royal Hospital, Donnybrook. He is married to Susan, and they have two daughters, Karen and Lynn, and one son, Mark.

As well as parochial responsibilities, Canon Harman has been a member of the Cathedral Chapter since 1991 and became Canon Treasurer in 2002. He was Editor of the Church Review, for many years, during which time he established it as one of the leading Church publications. At the central Church level, Desmond Harman was the driving force behind the Bishops' Appeal for World Development in its formative years. In 1999, he was elected to be one of the two Clerical Honorary Secretaries of the General Synod, a post of responsibility and influence, and also, more recently, Church of Ireland contact person for the Porvoo Churches.

His installation will take place in the Cathedral on Monday 26th April 2004 at 8.00 p.m.

FLOWERS

Every Sunday you can see flower arrangements in the cathedral. These are organized by Ruth Kinsella. Donations are regularly received and we wish to acknowledge the generosity of: Mrs. E. Anderson, Aoki Junko, Peter Kermode, Doreen King, Robin Lewis-Crosby and Anngret Simms.

RINGING-IN THE NEW YEAR.

LESLIE TAYLOR

Precisely 25 ringers and trainees assembled for the ringing-out and the ringing-in on New Year's Eve. RTE 1 broadcast some of our ringing, including, I believe, part of the Grandsire Triples rung for the old year on the Old Eight (which includes five 18th century bells) and our ringing at midnight and shortly after. To welcome the New Year, once more we rang the full 19 bells for an electrifying effect, certainly as far as the ringers were concerned, and I believe the crowd reaction was very favorable. We heard cheering as the first stroke of midnight was rung, which is some indication of crowd size.

SPECIAL RINGING FOR DEAN PATERSON. Near the time of his retirement, to salute Dean John Paterson, who has done so much for the bells and the ringers, on New Year's Day we came back to the cathedral and rang a Quarter Peal, details as follows. A Quarter Peal of 1260 Plain Bob Triples, in 52 minutes, on the back eight of the Middle 12. Ringers were - Treble: D Taylor; 2 V. Chamberlain; 3 G McGuire; 4 J Thompson; 5 L Taylor; 6 M Murphy; 7 R Jarvis (conducting); Tenor, R Rawlinson.

TEACHING: Programme of recruitment and teaching continues. Six new trainees are making excellent progress and I am confident that our situation will continue to progress. Happy New Year to all.

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London tour

CANON WILLIAM MARSHALL

Though London is well known to most people, for those fifty or so of the Friends of Christ Church who went there under the capable leadership of Terence Read, it was an enlightening experience, as we learnt new things about one of the world's greatest cities.

It was a dark and early start as we made our way to Dublin Airport on the morning of Friday 10th October 2003. On arrival at Heathrow, the coach which had been arranged for us brought us to our hotel in Richmond, overlooking the river Thames. During the weekend many of us took the chance to walk down to the river and along its banks. One of the many good features of this tour was the amount of free time we had for activities of our own choice. Friday afternoon was free for such things as a visit to Kew Gardens. Our first day ended with Compline in our hotel, conducted by Canon Herbert Whyte.

Richmond is some distance from the centre of London, but our coach journeys in and out had their own interest as we traveled mostly along the banks of the Thames with its many bridges and buildings of historic interest. Terence kept us well informed of places to look out for.

A tour of St Paul's Cathedral had been booked for Saturday morning. Probably most of us had been there before, but I think everyone must have learnt something new from our informative guides. The west front of the cathedral was swathed in scaffolding for a multi-million pound restoration project. There happened to be a naval wedding being celebrated in the choir, appropriate to the cathedral connections with Nelson, who is buried in the crypt. Our guide gave us interesting details about Nelson, Wren and Wellington who are all buried there. It was a thrill to climb up to the Whispering Gallery in the dome, and to the outer gallery from which there were superb views of London.

On the Saturday afternoon we had the option of going to a performance of "Twelfth Night" in the reconstructed Globe Theatre. It was an intriguing prospect to see a Shakespeare play performed as it was in Shakespeare's day, but many of us baulked at the thought of sitting on hard benches without back support (though I believe more comfortable seats were available).

A Friends' October tour always includes cathedral worship on the Sunday and this time Southwark Cathedral was our venue. At the Sung Eucharist we were impressed by the standard of worship, the vibrant worshipping congregation (many of whom were black) and the welcome we received. We had lunch in the refectory and were given a guided tour of the cathedral with its many historic connections.

The final day of the tour was mostly filled with a visit to Hampton Court Palace, where English history really came alive for us, starting with Cardinal Wolsey and Henry VIII in the sixteenth century and continuing through the centuries till it ceased to be a royal residence and was opened to the public by Queen Victoria. It is a truly vast complex of buildings, enlarged by William of Orange till it was bigger than Versailles. One in the eye for his great rival, Louis XIV! Space does not allow an adequate account of the magnificent gardens, the priceless art collections and the quadrangles, reminiscent of Oxbridge colleges, but it would wrong to omit mention of the Chapel Royal with its Tudor fan-vaulted ceiling, its Grinling Gibbons reredos and its fine Victorian stained glass,

replacing that smashed on Oliver Cromwell's orders. The Chaplin is from Dublin and known personally to some of our party. He and his deputy made us very welcome, telling us about the Chapel Royal and answering our queries. They conducted the service of Itinerarium in the Chapel for us to send us on our way, a fitting conclusion to a memorable visit. The Friends are greatly indebted to all who planned and organized the tour, especially to Terence Read whose knowledge and expertise made it so informative and enjoyable.

Epiphany- The Dean's last Service

Ray Rafausse

It is not often that the size of the congregation at Epiphany bids to rival that of Christmas morning and that simple fact demonstrated as eloquently as any panegyric the affection and respect for the Dean as he prepared to celebrate and preach for the last time. In a well filled nave, the owners of purple shirts and pectoral crosses vied for seats with the wearers of clerical collars of varying dimensions, stocks and shirts of every hue, and jackets, coats and clerical anoraks of many vintages. There were friends and admirers from across the united dioceses and from further afield, familiar faces from other Christian churches and, of course, members of that most elite confraternity, the regular cathedral congregation, who have worshipped day by day, week by week with the Dean for the last fifteen years.

A quiet welcome from the Dean and the silent procession of the choir, chapter and officiating clergy set the tone for the evening – subdued, perhaps a little apprehensive and yet expectant. The service began with the familiar opening sequences of the Eucharist which blended seamlessly into the ethereal cadences of the kyrie from Josef Rheinberger's Mass in E Flat, one of the most attractive settings in the choir's repertoire. The lay element in the liturgy was, most appropriately, reserved for members of the cathedral congregation – Terry Lilburn read the Old Testament reading and David Greer led the intercessions. The Dean preached in his customary fashion – briefly and clearly. His prose was accessible and his message plain – we should reflect on the role of the powerful elites in society who have always contrived to silence the poor and the weak and deny them the equity which is rightly theirs. As the long lines of communicants moved slowly towards the altar the choir sang in the south transept and when the last notes of the communion motet had died Andrew Johnstone played reflectively until all had returned to their places.

After the final prayer, in a short but poignant ceremony, the Dean surrendered his verge and badge of office into the care of the Canon Treasurer thus formally ending his tenure of the deanery. The Dean's Vicar sang the dismissal, the choir and clergy departed through the screen, and the members of the congregation went their separate ways, all with much to reflect upon.

Dean's Presentations

LESLEY WHITESIDE

The Very Revd John Paterson retired as Dean of Christ Church Cathedral on the Feast of the Epiphany. On the following Sunday, after Evensong, a ceremony took place at which gifts were presented to the retired dean and his wife, Patricia. There was a large attendance, among them many members of the Friends, to honour Dean Paterson and to hear a series of warm tributes to his outstanding career in the ordained ministry of the Church of Ireland and, in particular, as Dean of Christ Church since 1989. Many of those who were present must have been reminded of the aspects of John's ministry which had drawn them to the cathedral.

The Precentor, Dr. Adrian Empey, acted as master of ceremonies and introduced two speakers on behalf of the Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough. The Archbishop of Dublin, the Most Revd. John Neill, speaking on behalf of the clergy of the dioceses, thanked Dean Paterson for his wonderful contribution to the life of the dioceses, which had included service as Dean of Residence in Trinity College, as vicar of St. Mark's, and as incumbent of Christ Church, Leeson Park, and St. Bartholomew's, before his appointment in 1978 to the deanery of St. Brigid's Cathedral, Kildare. Returning to the dioceses as Dean of Christ Church in February 1989, John Paterson had served with great distinction and his influence had been felt far beyond the boundaries of Dublin and Glendalough.

Archbishop Neill emphasised Dean Paterson's sensitivity to the varied traditions throughout the Church of Ireland. 'John stands within the Catholic tradition within Anglicanism, but in such a non-partisan way that he is not only respected, but his help sought, by those of other traditions as much as his own. In fact John has a great sensitivity towards the Church of Ireland in all its traditions. Over a quarter of a century ago I followed him as incumbent in Christ Church Leeson Park and St. Bartholomew's, and as the first incumbent of that grouping, he established, maintained and developed a policy and a pattern of worship that was quite different in each parish. This same spirit has furthered John's ecumenical commitment – an appreciation of the richness of differing Christian traditions, and an ability to perceive what is special and valuable in each. There is in John, as we well know, a deep spirituality, a sensitivity to the presence of God, which actually enables others to feel God very close as we worship. There is with John a clarity of preaching, and an assurance that there is good news to be shared.'

The Archbishop reminded his listeners that the Dean of Christ Church, alone of the diocesan clergy, shared with him an equal responsibility to both Dublin and Glendalough. John Paterson had made the cathedral a place of welcome to people from both dioceses. His service, however, had been to the whole Church of Ireland, as a member of the General Synod and one of its clerical secretaries for several years, and as a member of several of its committees.

Praising the Dean's courage in battling to overcome his serious health problems in recent years, the Archbishop turned his attention to Mrs Patricia Paterson and thanked her for her vital role in enabling her husband to continue in the ministry through a very difficult time. He wished them both health and happiness in their retirement.

Dr Kenneth Milne was for once not wearing his 'cathedral hat', as a member of the board, as chairman of many committees, or even as

Secretary of the Friends, but was speaking on behalf of the laity of the dioceses. He highlighted the Dean's wonderful sense of liturgy, characterised by two things: 'flair and good taste'. His ordering of worship was never to the glory of John Paterson, nor to the glory of Christ Church, but always to the glory of God.

Ken also paid tribute to John Paterson's interest in the history of the cathedral and his concern for its maintenance and tasteful refurbishment. He was always conscious of his stewardship of a building which had stood for nearly a thousand years and he deserved the gratitude of the whole community for the care he had bestowed on it.

Dr. Empey than called on Mr. Keith Dungan, Diocesan Secretary, to make the diocesan presentations, after which he himself spoke on behalf of the Cathedral chapter, board, staff, volunteers and regular worshippers.

'If my memory serves me correctly, there is a Latin inscription in the great dome of St. Paul's cathedral, which says, roughly, "If you are looking for a memorial, just look about you." During John's time as Dean, the fabric of the cathedral has been much restored. The challenge of restoration is how to be sensitive both to the historical inheritance and the liturgical needs of today. That is not solved by throwing pots of money at it – holding these two things in tension requires vision and imagination. Yet John has maximised the use of space and light to create movement and warmth, a necessary context for liturgy.'

He continued, 'John also brought this same creative imagination to bear on the worship of the cathedral, with which no one here doubts for a moment he will be long remembered. As with fabric, so with liturgy – there's a balance here between worship that is coherent and uplifting, on the one hand, and theatre on the other. John introduced colour, movement and imagination into the liturgy, without letting it degenerate into theatre, and at the same time remaining faithful to the best traditions of the Church of Ireland. He leaves us with a wonderful legacy.

Beyond these gothic walls, John worked hard and successfully to integrate the cathedral with the life of this ever-changing chameleon, the city of Dublin. I could mention other achievements – as an historian I cannot omit those superb publications of the cathedral records. They are of the highest academic standard, and will continue to resources scholars for many years to come – even centuries.

What is so impressive about John's legacy is how all the changes – musical, liturgical, political, and even bricks and mortar – somehow cohere to make this ancient pile a driving force in the life of the city and the church as we enter a new millennium. How fortunate we have been to have had a Dean who could rise to that daunting challenge.'

Referring to 'the outstanding musical achievement that characterized John's time as Dean, ...I would stress his ability to achieve the right balance in all things musical.' He then asked the director of music, Judy Martin, to make a presentation on behalf of the choir. I sat there feeling that this was the culminating gift from the music department, for the Sung Eucharist on the Feast of the Epiphany and the Sung Evensong in which we had just shared had obviously been carefully chosen and prepared as a tribute to the Dean.

Finally, Adrian Empey presented the Dean with a cheque, and invited Ruth Kinsella to present Mrs Paterson with flowers. The last presentation was made by Mr. David Bockett, representing the Friends of Christ Church. He urged John to take time to enjoy his well-earned retirement

and thanked him for his encouragement to the Friends in their many undertakings on behalf of the cathedral. This extended to those who volunteer for visitor services, to those on Friends' tours and to all the material improvements, such as the recent installation of the new nave chairs.

Replying to the speeches, Dean Paterson spoke of the official dedication of the Cathedral to 'the Most Holy Trinity'. The 'trinity' theme seemed to have recurred during his time in office. He had served under three archbishops, had worked with three administrators, three directors of music, three assistant musical directors and three dean's vergers. But he had had only two dean's vicars and he paid special tribute to the Revd. Mark Gardner, who had done so much to support him in this last year of illness. He reminded the congregation to pray for the Precentor, who will have overall responsibility for the cathedral and the Dean's Vicar, who will bear the day-to-day responsibility, until a new dean is installed.

Membership Secretary

FRED GRAY

Before Christmas, my Scottish ancestry surfaced again as I bought a copy of a newspaper I would not normally buy. This was solely to get the accompanying copy of a CD of the cathedral choir singing Christmas carols. Having played it frequently over Christmas, my heart was filled with pride to be associated with the cathedral which has such a wonderful choir. They give their talents to enhance worship and praise, but then part of being associated with the cathedral is about giving.

Last year was a great year for giving by the Friends. A big "thank you" to all who each year pay their subscription, which is the main source of income to our funds. Then there are those very kind people who give money, time and talents to beautifying the cathedral with flowers.

The largest gift from the Friends was the supplying of 325 new chairs to the cathedral on your behalf. We sincerely thank all who have sponsored new chairs by giving a donation towards the cost of each unit. Mr. David Bockett our Hon. Treasurer came up with a bright idea of a register, which, reading from the front towards the back will give the names of those who sponsored the refurbishing of the old chairs and reading from the back towards the front, will give the names of those who sponsored the new chairs. Our sincere thanks to the calligrapher who is undertaking the massive task of entering all the names.

Mr. Charles Duignan, whose firm manufactured the chairs, has generously donated brass numbered discs so that sponsors can identity the chair they have sponsored. He has fitted the discs to the chairs as part of his donation. Our sincere thanks to Charles.

Many Friends also contributed to the Dean's Gift Day which has been acknowledged elsewhere.

As Friends of the cathedral, we have certainly lived up to our ideals and expectations. Each one of us can be justly proud of the part we have played in the maintaining of our great tradition. 1 Chronicles 29.v 11-14 appears appropriate and I think it sums up beautifully the Friends of the cathedral.

Dean Paterson remembers some Cathedral Ventures 1989-2004

JOHN PATERSON

Fifteen years of hard work by the Dean and Board have left the cathedral in a healthier state and with closer civic connections than it has had for many decades. Dean Salmon had led the way in the 1980s with his 'Safeguard Christ Church' campaign, which ensured that the cathedral was water-tight. He also led the appeal for the new organ in 1984, which has received praise from all over the world and is currently receiving further major work, to be ready for Easter. Reading through the Board minutes helps us to re-live many of those events and to highlight just some of the changes.

'People changes' are perhaps the most significant. The years since 1996 have seen the first appointment of an administrator, the restoration of dean's vicars after a lapse of thirty years and the setting up of Board sub-committees to relieve the heavy pressure of decisions at the monthly full meetings.

Strong mention must be made of the annual generous grants from the Synod Hall Trust. One of the earliest fabric improvements was the provision of a new exit from the crypt. This had the double advantage of making the crypt accessible to wheelchairs and also giving us much-needed crypt toilet facilities. A wall underneath the baptistery some 10 feet thick had to be cut through. Down the years there had been much talk of re-flooring, re-lighting and making greater use of the crypt. This was finally achieved as part of our millennium celebrations and has proved to be a great boon for cathedral hospitality. We are indebted to Taoiseach Bertie Ahern, TD, for support amounting to £750,000 to assist this development. New electronically controlled lighting was installed throughout the cathedral, the building totally re-wired - some of the existing wiring was discovered to date back to the 1920s! The gas heating system was disposed of and our heat now comes from the district heating system which flows from the Civic Offices. One of the major events of the millennium year was the installation of seven new bells, giving the cathedral the largest peal of bells in the world – 19 in all.

Other major changes included the building of a new general office in the disused back yard. Perhaps the most spectacular of the changes was the installation of a state-of-the-art Treasury and the new Archives room – the generous gift of former administrator Christopher Shiell. Recently the Dean of Westminster visited the exhibition, and said how a similar exhibition was planned for the abbey, and how he would ensure that his advisors came to see our display cases. The cathedral was also the first in Ireland to have its own website, run by Stuart Kinsella, and which has received awards for its user-friendly layout.

We also saw the creation of the first girls' choir in Ireland in 1996. Now, 2004 will see the organ rebuilt and the installation of dorsal curtains around the eastern altars of St. Laud and St. Edmund. This will dramatically enhance the appearance of two rather bleak walls and make the altars stand out in importance. Together with the Mihai Cucu icons and the Imogen Stuart Mother and Child in the Lady Chapel, this will transform the appearance of the area behind the high altar. Lastly, the gift of two kneeler fronts two kneeler fronts for the nave chairs (all 325 of which were the gift of the Friends) will complete the appearance of the nave.

Many other items could be mentioned for the transformation of the building into one of visual arts while retaining its air of contemplation as a place of pilgrimage. God be praised for what we have achieved on a limited budget. I give my good wishes to my successor and know he will continue to pour his many talents into the welfare of the building and its people.

From the Cathedral Administrator

MARK BOWYER

Another busy year has passed and lots of changes are afoot in the cathedral over the next few weeks and months. Following the retirement of Dean Paterson in January, we were pleased to hear that the Archbishop had quickly appointed a successor in the person of Canon Desmond Harman. We welcome Desmond as Dean, although he is not new to the cathedral, as he has been associated with the cathedral for many years. We wish him and his family well in the challenge that lies ahead. We also wish Dean John and Pat, improved health, and happiness in their retirement.

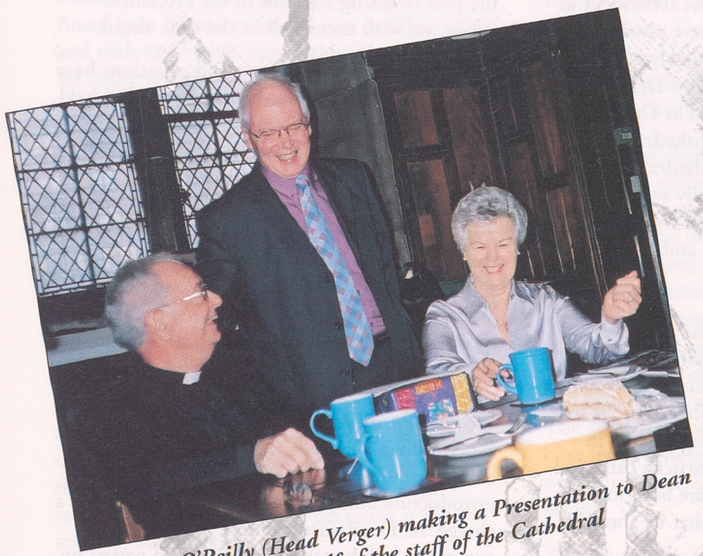
Many of you will have heard that I will be leaving the cathedral in early February, to take up a new position as administrator of St. Canice's cathedral in Kilkenny. Aisling Sheridan, PA to the dean and administrator is also leaving in early February to move to St. Patrick's cathedral as administrative assistant. We are both looking forward to the new challenges that lie ahead.

In February, we also say welcome to Katherine (Kate) Bridge who starts as visitor services officer. Kate is from Canterbury cathedral and brings with her a wealth of experience in running visitor services and the gift shop at Canterbury. We hope that she will be very happy at Christ Church and I am sure that those involved on a day-to-day basis, both staff and volunteers will give her all the help and support she needs. During any interregnum, not least a clerical one, someone has to assume responsibility and oversight of the cathedral. Canon Adrian Empey, as Precentor, assumes responsibility for the cathedral in the absence of a dean and he has given The Revd. Mark Gardner, Dean's Vicar, the day-to-day responsibility for the cathedral. He also needs help and support from all to ensure that the cathedral continues to run smoothly. In this, however, the office and administration of the cathedral needs also to continue to run smoothly and the Board are pleased to have appointed on a temporary basis Peter Parshall to the post of acting cathedral manager and Clodagh Merry to the post of acting assistant to the Precentor. Again, we wish them well in the time ahead.

Sometimes difficult decisions and situations have to be dealt with in the cathedral. Recently I held an evening with the volunteers to discuss not only the upcoming staffing changes, but also the implications of the Board's decision to implement a charge with effect from Monday 29th March 2004. Many of you will be aware of the increasing costs of running a cathedral – some €651,000 per annum at the moment. Without the charge we are still some €200,000 short of this income. Introducing the charge still leaves a gap of some €120,000. This is another day's work for the Board, but goes some way to showing the difficulties that the cathedral is experiencing. The evening was very constructive and provided some food for thought over the introduction and practical implications of such a charge. As I explained to those present, all the comments will be taken on board and passed on to the relevant departments for consideration and ultimately to the Board for decisions. It was good to have a Board member present on the evening, Professor David Croke, who helped to support the reasons behind the implementation as well as giving the administrator some moral support!

My nearly five years in Christ Church has been mostly enjoyable! It has been a privilege to have the opportunity to work in such a marvelous building and to have met and made so many great friends. I wish the cathedral well in its new direction under the new dean. I thank all the staff, both past and present for their encouragement and support during those years. I thank the Friends, in particular those on the committee and the volunteers for all their tireless efforts on behalf of the cathedral. May God to continue to bless the work of this cathedral; after all, it is to God, through our work, that we give our praise and glory.

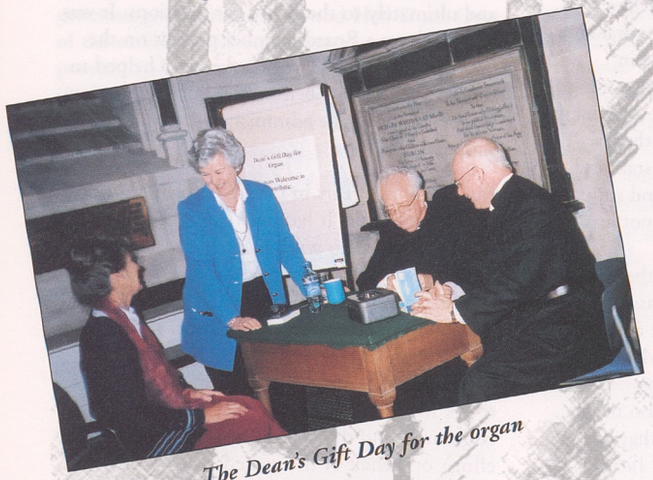
PHOTO NEWS



Kieran O'Reilly (Head Verger) making a Presentation to Dean John on behalf of the staff of the Cathedral

Dean John with Archbishop John Neill, Walter Empey and Donald Caird

"Why are we waiting" - Friends in London



The Dean's Gift Day for the organ

A group of the Friends in London

Christ Church Lectures

STUART KINSELLA

Given that, as mentioned in the last issue, the Archives committee has been running for a decade now, it is worth a rummage in the dust-bin of history to see what lectures have been organised over the last few years. The tradition of historical talks is more than a century old, and can be traced back to Sir Thomas Drew's St. Stephen's day lectures. These continued with numerous lecturers at least up until 1967, when Dean Salmon delivered a lecture entitled 'Christ Church – Yesterday, to-day, and to-morrow'. By the 1980's a gap was certainly felt and the first Joe Coady memorial lecture was held in the 'millennium' year 1988, when the Revd Professor F.X. Martin, O.S.A. spoke on 'Lambert Simnel: the crowning of a king'. The series fell into abeyance until 1995, when it was revived with a talk by Professor Roger Stalley entitled 'The day the roof fell in'. Since then there have been annual lectures, although the pattern of talks has been gradually modified. From 2001, it was decided to move it from its evening slot in Spring to the more convenient occasion of Trinity Sunday, when it could coincide with the patronal festivities enjoyed by the Friends. The first of these, given by cathedral treasury exhibit designer, Orna Hanley, included a guided tour as well as the lecture. However, in a new departure recently, it has instead been decided to dedicate the Spring 2004 group of four lunchtime lectures to Joe Coady's memory. Set out in the table on this page is a complete list of the individual Joe Coady lectures (1987-2003).

Joe Coady Memorial Lecture		
F X Martin	1987	Lambert Simnel: the crowning of a king
Roger Stalley	1995	The day the roof fell in: Gothic architecture in Christ Church cathedral
Barra Boydell	1996	Musical Tadpoles: music in Christ Church cathedral
Raymond Gillespie	1997	Vergers and vicars: serving Christ Church cathedral 1540- 1600
Peter Harbison	1998	Beranger's 18th century watercolours of Dublin city and county
Lesley Whiteside	1999	The stained glass of Christ Church cathedral
Ann Buckley	2000	Music from the monasteries and cathedrals of medieval Ireland
Orna Hanley	2001	The development of the cathedral treasury
Adrian Empey	2002	The origins of cathedral chapters: how cathedrals began
Lisa Parker	2003	The cathedral music of Robert Prescott Stewart

As the Spring series might suggest, the cathedral lunchtime lectures have continued to be most successful, and two further series have been held since reporting on the '2000 Years of Christianity' series which ended in May 2002. Firstly, in October 2002, the topic was the cathedral prebends, which nowadays exist only as honorific titles of senior chapter members. The churches themselves were St Michael's (now the synod hall, occupied by Dvblinia), St Michan's (the only one remaining as a church and indeed still a member of the cathedral group of parishes) and St John's (demolished and originally sited near the concourse between the Dublin City Council office and the cathedral). Secondly, a series on the natural resources of medieval Dublin in February 2003 yielded a number of speakers of interest, although I must apologise to Dr Siobhán Geraghty for the miraculously-forwarding-slide-projector … a little distracting to have one's talk propelled by the speed of the equipment! A full list of all the lunchtime lectures so far since they first started in October 1997 is listed in this

edition of the Newsletter and, for those who like keeping score, of the array of scholars who gave talks, Dr. Raymond Gillespie (referred to once by Dr. Toby Barnard as a 'victor ludorum … [of] … bibliometric olympics') gave four lectures, while Dr. Howard Clarke, Precentor Adrian Empey, Bishop Richard Clarke and Dr. Marie Therese Flanagan creep up behind with three lectures each. Indeed, such has been the generosity of the lecturers in agreeing to speak that it is worth noting that ten speakers spoke twice!

In an effort to increase the number of lectures which reach the publication stage, it is hoped to focus efforts on a series of more themed lectures which would span an entire year, such as, for example, '2000 Years of Christianity', which is now being edited by the former precentor, the Revd Professor John Bartlett, for publication with Columba Press. In this way a series of twelve lectures can be assembled for publication in a larger volume. Just such another example is the series on the archbishops of Dublin and Glendalough entitled 'Episcopal episodes'. The first of the series was held in October 2000 (see Summer 2002 Newsletter), while the second was just recently in November 2003 when the spotlight fell on Bishop Gilla Pátraic (1074-84) and Archbishops Adam Loftus (1567-1605), William King (1703-49) and John Henry Bernard (1915-19). It was held in association with Dublin City Council, whose lectures preceded it in October and took place in the council chamber of the city hall. The topic was 'The Georgian Squares of Dublin', and these featured Parnell, Merrion, Mountjoy and Mountpleasant squares. This coming March 2004 the series will conclude with an examination of the life of the patron saint of Dublin, Archbishop Lorcán Ua Tuathail (Laurence O'Toole) (1162-80), his immediate successor, John Cumin (1181-1212) and more distant Anglican successors, Richard Whately (1831-1863) and George Otto Simms (1956-69). The presence of only one bishop in the entire set of twelve lectures reflects the early history of the Dublin diocese, and it was not until 1152 that Dublin was raised to archepiscopal status. Since then two diocesan unions have occurred: one with Glendalough in 1214 (still intact), and another temporary union with Kildare from 1846 to 1976.

As with the first Ceiliúradh festival in 2000 when a number of lectures were held to compliment it, a lunchtime series will be held in association with an exhibition of Irish medieval liturgical manuscripts on display in the cathedral treasury over the summer of 2004. This includes the sumptuously produced 'Christ Church Psalter' which will be brought from the Bodleian library in Oxford. Dr Raymond Gillespie is arranging the speakers, and hopes to include amongst them, an expert on the Christ Church martyrology, Professor Pádraig Ó Riain, whose recent lecture on 'Dublin's oldest book' at the 2003 Friends of Medieval Dublin conference shed exciting new light on the early origins of the cathedral, suggesting that we should look to Cologne, Germany for the basis of the cathedral's early liturgy. We are also delighted to report that these lunchtime lectures will culminate on Saturday 29th May with a joint symposium with the Friends of Medieval Dublin, meeting at Trinity College in the morning, and at the cathedral in the afternoon, when the focus will fall entirely on the cathedral manuscripts, most of which will be united for the first time in several centuries.

And if that were not enough, already the Archives committee is planning a large scale series of lectures for the liturgical year of 2004-5 which will look from different perspectives at the place of religion in the cosmos, our natural environment and ourselves. It promises to be peppered with scientific controversies now resolved, social controversies still undecided and will perhaps even postulate post-human questions not yet considered …!

A Guide to the Christ Church Lecture Series

1st Series	**Augustinian canons at Christ Church**	
Tuesday 21 October 1997	Sex, lies and no videotape: Augustine and the reasons for his Rule	Dr Lewis Ayres
Tuesday 28 October 1997	The regular canons in Ireland: the 12th century reform in action	Dr Sarah Preston
Tuesday 4 November 1997	Canons, cloisters and crypts: daily life and worship in medieval Christ Church	Dr Tadgh O'Keeffe
Tuesday 11 November 1997	Sanctified sinners: the Augustinians at Christ Church 1450-1540	Dr Raymond Gillespie
2nd Series	**The Victorian cathedral: Christ Church in the nineteenth century**	
Monday 2 February 1998	Church and state: Christ Church and the Church of Ireland	Dr Kenneth Milne
Monday 9 February 1998	'... music's measure / For Thy pleasure ...'	Mr Andrew Johnstone
Monday 16 February 1998	The stained glass of Christ Church cathedral Dublin	Mrs Lesley Whiteside
Monday 23 February 1998	'a laughing-stock to the irreverent' – architectural change at Christ Church	Mr Stuart Kinsella
3rd Series	**Images of Christ Church**	
Tuesday 5 May 1998	Christ Church cathedral in the context of medieval Dublin	Dr Howard Clarke
Tuesday 12 May 1998	Fabric in ferment: an evolution of the cathedral	Mr Stuart Kinsella
Tuesday 19 May 1998	The monuments of Christ Church cathedral	Ms Amy Harris
Tuesday 26 May 1998	Dandified deans: images of Christ Church people 1500-1800	Dr Raymond Gillespie
4th Series	**The Vikings & Christ Church cathedral Dublin**	
Tuesday 6 October 1998	From conversion to cathedral: the christianization of the Vikings of Dublin	Dr Marie Therese Flanagan
Tuesday 13 October 1998	Recent excavations at the 'West End' of Temple Bar	Ms Linzi Simpson
Tuesday 20 October 1998	Christ Church & the politics of pre-Norman Dublin	Dr Sean Duffy
Tuesday 27 October 1998	Wood Quay: excavating in the shadow of the cathedral	Dr Patrick F. Wallace
5th Series	**Christ Church in Stuart Dublin: the 17th century cathedral**	
Tuesday 2 February 1999	Christ Church: the smallest of Dublin's liberties	Dr Kenneth Milne
Tuesday 9 February 1999	The cathedral plate & the artistic influence of William and Mary	Mr Douglas Bennett
Tuesday 16 February 1999	Lawyers in hell: the Four Courts at Christ Church: an historical view	Dr Colum Kenny
Tuesday 23 February 1999	An architectural view of the old Four Courts at Christ Church	Dr Edward McParland
6th Series	**Irish cathedrals in the middle ages**	
Tuesday 4 May 1999	Down cathedral in the medieval period	Mr Fred Rankin
Tuesday 11 May 1999	St Canice's cathedral: a worthy foundation	The Revd Canon Dr Adrian Empey
Tuesday 18 May 1999	Liturgy for the learned and lewd at Holy Trinity Cathedral, Dublin	Dr Alan J. Fletcher
Tuesday 25 May 1999	Tuam cathedral: fit for a king	Professor Roger Stalley
7th Series	**The future of the Church**	
Tuesday 5 October 1999	The cathedral as aesthetic focus: will beauty save the church?	The Revd Dr Alan McCormack
Tuesday 12 October 1999	Cathedrals today and tomorrow: a window of opportunity?	The Very Revd Dr Michael Jackson
Tuesday 19 October 1999	The future of the Church of Ireland	The Most Revd Dr Richard Clarke
Tuesday 26 October 1999	The Future of the Church	The Very Revd John Paterson
8th Series	**Dublin's Christ Church: rediscovering the city's heart**	
Tuesday 8 February 2000	Christ Church: a cathedral core for medieval Dublin?	Dr Anngret Simms
Tuesday 15 February 2000	Secular cathedral & Renaissance city	Dr Colm Lennon
Tuesday 22 February 2000	Wide Streets Commissioners & city corporation: the clearance of the cathedral close	Dr Hugh Campbell
Tuesday 29 February 2000	The old city revisited: Temple Bar and Dublin's urban regeneration	Mr Shane O'Toole
9th Series	**1000 years of worship at Christ Church**	
Monday 19 June 2000	Worship in the medieval priory	Dr Alan Fletcher
Tuesday 20 June 2000	'The Book of Common Prayer'	Dr Raymond Gillespie
Wednesday 21 June 2000	Prayer Book Revision, 1878	The Most Revd Dr Richard Clarke
Thursday 22 June 2000	Contemporary Prayer Book Revision	The Very Revd John Paterson
Friday 23 June 2000	Is this the last prayer book?: the impact of I [nformation] T[echnology]	The Revd Canon Brian Mayne
10th Series	**Episcopal episodes: Some archbishops of Dublin & Glendalough**	
Tuesday 10 October 2000	Archbishop Alexander Bicknor (1317-1349)	Ms Niav Gallagher
Tuesday 17 October 2000	Archbishop George Browne (1536-1554)	Dr James Murray
Tuesday 24 October 2000	Archbishop Charles Agar (1801-1809)	Dr A.P.W. Malcomson
Tuesday 31 October 2000	Archbishop Narcissus Marsh (1694-1703)	Dr Muriel McCarthy

11th Series	**2000 years of Christianity: I**	
Tuesday 9 October 2001	The birth of Christianity and the christianising of the empire	Professor Seán Freyne
Tuesday 16 October 2001	The development of the medieval papacy	Dr Michael Haren
Tuesday 23 October 2001	Patrician and non-Patrician mission to Ireland and the establishment of Armagh	Dr Catherine Swift
Wednesday 31 October 2001	The monastic organisation of the Irish church with reference to Glendalough	Dr Ailbhe MacShamhráin
12th Series	**2000 years of Christianity: II**	
Tuesday 5 February 2002	The christianisation of the Dublin Vikings	Dr Howard Clarke
Tuesday 12 February 2002	The twelfth-century reform of the Irish Church	Dr Marie Therese Flanagan
Tuesday 19 February 2002	The mendicants and the Anglo-Norman Church	Dr Bernadette Williams
Tuesday 26 February 2002	The dawn of the Reformation in Ireland	Dr James Murray
13th Series	**2000 years of Christianity: III**	
Tuesday 7 May 2002	Recusancy & the counter Reformation	Dr Colm Lennon
Tuesday 14 May 2002	Ascendancy & the penal laws	Dr James Kelly
Tuesday 21 May 2002	The 19th century: revolution and reform	Dr Andrew Pierce
Tuesday 27 May 2002	The 20th & 21st century Irish Church	Professor Ferdinand von Prondzynski
14th Series	**The cathedral prebends of Christ Church, Dublin**	
Tuesday 8 October 2002	The origins of prebendal parishes	The Revd Canon Dr Adrian Empey
Tuesday 15 October 2002	The prebend of St Michael's	Dr Howard Clarke
Tuesday 22 October 2002	The prebend of St John's	Dr Raymond Gillespie
Tuesday 29 October 2002	The prebend of St Michan's	The Revd Roy Byrne
15th Series	**The natural resources of medieval Dublin**	
Tuesday 4 March 2003	The Dublin Vikings: rape and pillage or soil and tillage?	Dr Siobhán Geraghty
Tuesday 11 March 2003	The manors of the cathedral priory of Holy Trinity, Dublin	The Revd Canon Dr Adrian Empey
Tuesday 18 March 2003	Some Liffey influences on medieval Dublin	Professor Seán de Courcy
Tuesday 25 March 2003	Trees to smoke: exploring the use of wood in Anglo-Norman Dublin	Mr Aidan O'Sullivan
16th Series	**Extra episcopal episodes: Some more archbishops of Dublin & Glendalough**	
Tuesday 4 November 2003	Bishop Gilla Pátraic (1074-84)	Dr Martin Holland
Tuesday 11 November 2003	Archbishop Adam Loftus (1567-1605)	Dr Helga Robinson-Hammerstein
Tuesday 18 November 2003	Archbishop William King (1703-49)	Dr Philip O'Regan
Tuesday 25 November 2003	Archbishop John Henry Bernard (1915-19)	The Very Revd Dr Robert MacCarthy
17th Series	**Episcopal episodes encore: Yet more archbishops of Dublin & Glendalough**	
Tuesday 2 March 2004	Archbishop Lorcán Ua Tuathail (Laurence O'Toole) (1162-1180)	Professor Dr Michael Richter
Tuesday 9 March 2004	Archbishop John Cumin (1182-1212)	Dr Marie Therese Flanagan
Tuesday 16 March 2004	Archbishop Richard Whatley (1831-1863)	The Most Revd Dr Richard Clarke
Tuesday 23 March 2004	Archbishop George Otto Simms (1956-1969)	Mrs Lesley Whiteside
	Walking Tours	
Monday 19 June 2000	Specially arranged visit to Chester Beatty Library of Oriental Art at Dublin Castle	
Tuesday 20 June 2000	Medieval Dublin	Dr Seán Duffy
Wednesday 21 June 2000	Georgian Dublin	Mr Peter Pearson
Thursday 22 June 2000	Victorian Dublin	Mr Peter Pearson
Friday 23 June 2000	Modern Dublin, including Temple Bar	Mr Shane O'Toole

Errata - Autumn 2003

The last section of the Archives report dealing with membership was included unintentionally in the autumn 2003 Newsletter.

History of the cathedral chairs

Fred Gray

Prior to the restoration from 1871-1878, the only seating in the cathedral was in the long choir. There was a number of reasons for this (a) the cathedral was in a run down state, (b) there was no money available, even for necessary repairs, (c) the liturgy did not encourage the participation of the congregation, if any, and (d) more people could be packed in for special occasions if they were standing rather than sitting.

In parish churches, pews were installed during the 17th–19th centuries and most were subject to pew rents paid by the occupants for the privilege of sitting in the main aisle. The side aisles and galleries, if they existed, were used by members of the congregation who could not afford pew rents or were not of a sufficiently high social standard.

With the disestablishment of the Church of Ireland in 1871, changes in practice started to evolve on perhaps a rather slow scale. Social barriers slowly disappeared and greater congregation participation was encouraged. The evangelical churches actively encouraged congregational hymn singing, rather than leaving it to be the sole prerogative of the choir.

It was indeed fortunate that these changes, the disestablishment and the extremely generous involvement of our great benefactor, Henry Roe, coincided. As part of the restoration, seating was provided in the nave and side aisles. The chairs, with rush seats on a pine frame, served the cathedral well for one hundred and twenty five years. A number of restoration projects on the chairs were implemented, organised mainly by Mr Terence Read, who was the instigator of other projects in the cathedral. He was a member of the cathedral board and Honorary Secretary of the Friends of the cathedral for many years.

However, age takes its toll and the chairs wore out. The frames became insecure as a result of the cellulose drying out, which holds the vegetable fibres in the timber together. The timber shrunk and all the joints loosened. Further, timber which reaches this state will no longer bond together satisfactorily.

As the Friends of the cathedral, through Mr. Terence Read and laterally Mr. David Bockett, had been involved in the restoration projects, the Friends decided to offer to replace the existing chairs with units of a modern design and this offer was gratefully accepted by the cathedral board. A sub committee of the Friends was appointed, comprising of Mr. David Bockett, Mr. Fred Gray, Mr. Don Macaulay and Ms. Lesley Rue, to liaise with the cathedral fabric committee, on designs and colour.

Many firms were asked to submit samples, in various finishes, all to specifications drawn up by the Friends sub committee, in consultation with the cathedral fabric committee and the Head Verger Mr. Kieran O'Reilly. Visits were made to St. Mary's Cathedral Limerick, St. Brigid's Cathedral Kildare and St. Paul's Cathedral London, by members of the Friends sub-committee, to inspect recently installed seating. The sample chairs were placed in the cathedral and the views of the congregation were sought.

After much discussion, it was agreed that the new chairs, would be limited to two blocks in the nave. For special services, in the spaces between the arches and the side aisles, folding

chairs would be used. These folding chairs were donated to the cathedral by the Friends on a previous occasion. The contract for the supply of the new chairs was placed with Irish Contract Seating, for three hundred and twenty five units, designed by the Managing Director, Mr. Charles Duignan. This firm is located in Dromod, near Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim.

Because the chairs are in two blocks in the nave, it was essential that they were all identical in size and shape. Also, the grain in the wood in the seats had to be similar. This required the co-operation of all eighteen staff involved in production.

The timber, American ash, because of the size of the contract, was purchased through a specialised broker in Britain. On arrival at the workshop it was placed in a hot room to reduce the moisture content to 10%. After this, the timber was planed and all defects were cut out. The blanks for the components were then cut to approximate size, ready for feeding into the computer controlled twelve station cutter woodworking plant. The computer control ensured conformity of the cutting, not possible using the human eye.

When the blanks had been machined to a high standard of finish, they were passed to the assembly area where the chairs were put together using hydraulic presses in jigs. All joints in addition to being morticed and tenoned were pinned and glued using a urea formaldehyde glue. This glue had proved itself over the years as giving a perfect bond. It was first used in the assembly of the ash frames in the construction of early aircraft.

To give added strength and allow for ease of stacking, the stringers joining the legs were angled. Also, to counteract the high-pressure exerted by persons leaning backwards on the back legs, all legs were braced with glue blocks. To get the correct curve on the backs, they had to be cut by hand, using a band saw. The foxy friars engraved on the backs were cut on the computer controlled twelve-station cutter, again for conformity. The chairs were then finished with an acid catylist lacquer, one of the hardest wearing finishes known to-day.

Finally the brass linking brackets were manufactured and the numbers engraved, using metal cuttings heads at a reduced speed in the twelve station cutter. They were then tumbled together to remove the gloss and give an antique finish. This project required a high standard of co-operation, expertise and dedication from those concerned in all aspects of the replacement of the chairs. The previous chairs served the cathedral for one hundred and twenty five years and hopefully the new ones will last a similar period.

IS YOUR SUBSCRIPTION DUE NOW?

Remember, to save cost, we do not send out reminders.

My first Christmas in Ireland

ANJA ZIMMER

It's great fun, living abroad, you know, but it can turn out to be something different, when it comes to Advent and Christmas. Especially, when you know that you won't be able to see your family. For to make things even much worse, my mom sent me a whole box of her wonderful homemade Christmas cookies like Vanillekipferl, Baerentatzen, Lebkuchen and Aprikosensterne. I didn't touch them, because I knew, they would make me feel dreadfully homesick. I shared them with the family I am living with and brought some to the office, but I didn't each much of them myself. But then I had quite a pleasant Advent. It started very well with the Advent Procession, to which I brought another victim for Christ Church, my friend Eva, who had already met some of you. She joined the Acolytes straight away. Christmas came nearer and nearer, all my colleagues from abroad went home to their families, I waved them good bye and felt like probably a plum pudding would feel like in January. Christmas was lurking at the end of December and I didn't feel too good about it. But there is no need to despair, when you are a member of that bunch at Christ Church Cathedral Dublin. I was very cordially invited by the Kinsellas and many people asked me, if I was alright for Christmas, if I had a nice place to stay. So I had. And then Christmas Eve came. I was the very last to leave my workplace, making last phone calls to my family and friends, sending emails and wishing everybody a merry Christmas, who went home to their families. In Germany it's actually Christmas Eve, which is the most important day. (Most important, because it's then you get the presents.)I was longing to be with my family, especially when my brother rang me and I heard my nieces in the background playing and laughing. But no worries. Caitriona and Stuart had invited me to their party in Christ Church View. It was a great party, with mulled wine (I only inhaled it and got drunk), Lebkuchen, party music and a short glance at the telly, when the concert from Christ Church was on. Which was very interesting, as it was vividly commented on by the Cathedral Choir. (Ok, no further details.) We then went off to the midnight service, and finally I got something like that special feeling, you only get at Christmas. This excitement, joy and happiness, you remember so well from your childhood and which is actually linked to all these familiar smells, tastes and rituals you are used to since your were tiny enough to believe in
Santa. I enjoyed the service so much and was very happy to recognize some of the songs, as we sing the same in Germany and I sang them in German. To hear the words of the Christmas gospel in English sounded new, but still familiar. Everybody was very happy this evening, maybe a bit tired, but happy, cordial, open and friendly. The Kinsellas gave me a lift back home and picked me up again in the morning. (Great service.)

And off we were for the Christmas Day mass. Again smiling faces, good wishes, hugs and hands shaking everywhere. John's sermon about sharing friendship actually made it clear for me, how stupid I had been, worrying about Christmas. The choir - as usual - made it hard for me to concentrate and not to get lost in space completely. And then the Christmas dinner at the Kinsella's. Ruth is like all mums in the world - unhappy, unless there are loads of people she can spoil rotten.So we got. Desmond made sure, that nobody was short of wine or anything else. Apart from me, Heidi had brought a colleague, who is half Canadian and half Chinese. So we were quite international. But the dinner was all Irish. The turkey was big enough to feed an army. After that my sweet tooth certainly got fed. I had my very first trifle,

certainly not the last one, minces pies with brandy butter and pudding. Everything homemade and absolutely delicious. We sat by the fire, having tea and Christmas cake. (Finally more food. We were all starving!) Stuart played Santa's part. He had to distribute the presents that were piled up under the tree. ("I won't give them to the right persons. Don't be stupid.") And there were even presents for me! I got a big warm scarf and a candle. Things that make warmth and light. What else would you need? Later on, Caitriona came with her parents. We had a very nice chat, more tea and cake and more visitors.

At some stage, I remembered my mom's cookies. I had forgotten about them completely. I brought some over later on and we had them together. I really could enjoy them now. Stephen's Day I spent with the family I am living with in Dun Laoghaire, had more delicious food and so it went on with the next Sunday, when the Finches invited me for dinner. I am glad that I had this wonderful experience of an Irish Christmas and thanks to all of you, who made it such a very happy Christmas for me.It's great fun, living abroad, you know, and it turns out to be even greater fun, when you get wonderful experiences with good friends.

Advent service

TERRY LILBURN

As a regular member of the cathedral congregation, one is aware of the tremendous work and effort by the choirs, clergy and staff that goes into the production of services each week. This year however, was my first real opportunity to observe the behind the scenes preparations at close quarters - up front and personal in today's parlance.

Back in October it seemed like a good idea to volunteer to be an acolyte, at the end of November I was beginning to wonder! However, there was no need for apprehension as everything was well in hand and under control when we arrived for the afternoon rehearsal. Two choirs, thirty acolytes, plus readers and clergy all processing through the cathedral takes quite some skill in crowd management. Word filtered through that it was not going to be as difficult as last year, only for that rumour to be just as quickly denied! With each of us having been provided with our own numbered order of service, complete with maps, the rehearsal went very smoothly. Mark Gardner as unflappable as ever, appeared to be unconcerned that he was missing four acolytes! There was just time for refreshments, kindly provided by the Kinsella family, part two of our rehearsal and then into our robes. The two candle-holders used by the acolytes on Sundays had been magically metamorphosed by Kieran so there was one for each of us. By the power of faith, the missing spaces in our line up were filled so each choir member had his or her own acolyte (Useful in the darkened cathedral). Out we headed for the south transept, and a beautiful rendition of William Byrd's Vigilate. From here we processed to the east end of the nave, while the congregation candles were lit during the opening hymn. Following the prayers, reading and a motet, the Girls' Choir moved across to the other side of the nave whilst the Cathedral Choir processed to the west door. From here we moved to the north aisle, following further hymns and readings, before eventually moving up to the sanctuary for the remainder of the service. This use of the building with its marvelous acoustics and the movement through the congregation, greatly contributes to the sense of occasion and the enhancement of worship. The very full cathedral was testament to the reputation that this service now enjoys. I thoroughly enjoyed the experience, so perhaps next year some of you might consider making the life of the Dean's Vicar a little easier by volunteering your services!

Christmas Eve

ANNGRET SIMMS

This year we brought German visitors, both musicians, to the first Eucharist of the Nativity in Christ Church Cathedral and all of us thought that it was a wonderful experience. We came half an hour early and found that the nave filled up very quickly. There was an air of expectation, with the organ playing very softly in the background. Then, at midnight, the choir, still out of sight, sang: 'Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht'. What a lovely surprise for my German friends to hear their own mother-tongue. The organ introduced the tune of the processional hymn, 'Christians, awake, salute the happy morn', and very soon we heard the beautiful voices of the choir passing through the centre aisle on their way to the choir stalls. They were followed by the Archbishop, the Dean, the Dean's Vicar and the canons, and last but not least, by the Archbishops' Chaplain. At this stage nobody was left in any doubt that we were about to celebrate a very special service.

The verger came to collect the lay-readers and then the first reading of Isaiah rang out: 'The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.' The discipline of the choir came into great effect with the Gradual Psalm 96: 'O sing unto the Lord a new song'. - It is a striking symbolic act to read out the gospel from the middle of the centre aisle- bringing the gospel down to the people. It will have been a source of great joy for many of us to hear the Dean delivering his sermon with such a firm voice overcoming the burden of illness. He left us with the important message, that the greatest gift we can receive and give is that of friendship.

We were grateful for the little yellow leaflets giving us the order of the service and the melodies and texts of beautiful but, for some of us, lesser known English traditional Christmas carols such as 'God rest you merry gentlemen' and John Byrne's 'Christians awake, salute the happy morn.' The communion carols were sung exquisitely by the choir. My German friend, who conducts a choir in Cologne, was full of praise for their high standard. He was impressed that the soloist parts of the Missa Brevis in B flat by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart were sung by members of the choir. I wonder if my German friend and I were alone in thinking that the interpretation of the beautiful Mozart Mass was very much in line with the style of the old masters as, for example, Palestrina, rather than being presented as a piece of classical music? Mozart composed the Missa Brevis in B flat for choir and orchestra. At our mid-night service the organ took the part of the orchestra and as such the organ played an important part and would have been justified in being somewhat more assertive. Whatever about that opinion, the organ certainly made up for any previous timidness in the organ Voluntary Toccata for Viénne Symphony by Charles Marie Widor which was a wonderful expression of joy.

It was great to see so many young people attending the service and participating in a liturgy which demonstrated the richness of our Christian tradition. The beauty of great liturgy is that it combines religious messages with artistic expression and makes the meaning of the service so much more accessible for us. As a mere pew person, I would like to express my sincere thanks to those who contributed to making this midnight service in the Cathedral such an uplifting experience for Dubliners from different walks of life as well as for the visitors who were among us. We owe a great debt of gratitude to those in the Cathedral who guard the liturgical and musical traditions so that we can more fully experience, as on this occasion, the mystery of the Christmas night.

SO YOU THINK YOU KNOW CHRIST CHURCH? FRIENDS' QUIZ

This fun quiz has been devised to test your knowledge of the cathedral. The winner will receive a prize of a mixed case (6 bottles) of wine. Some of the answers are easy, some a little more difficult, and a few that are somewhat cryptic. All can be found within the precincts of the cathedral. In the event of more than one person having the same number of correct answers, the name of the winner will be drawn from a hat. Please put in an entry even if you feel you don't have all the answers. This competition is not open to the cathedral staff or choir.

1. On whose monument is the surname spelt in two different ways?
2. Who looks after the cathedral grounds?
3. Where can one find representations of a metal bird, a glass bird and a stone anthropoid?
4. A number of pipes are being added to the organ; name three of them.
5. I sailed around the seat.
6. On whose monument did the sculptor make a mistake and subsequently corrected it?
7. Where in the cathedral would you find a predella?
8. When were the stocks in the crypt made?
9. Almost sounds like this person works in a circus rather than the cathedral.
10. Five icons were presented to the cathedral last year; name the artist who painted them.
11. Who celebrated a Jubilee in November last year?
12. It sounds like there's an attacker beneath the glass.

Return your entry to The Friends of Christ Church Cathedral (marked for the attention of the Editor). Closing date 30th April 2004. Answers will be printed in the next edition of the magazine. Winner will be notified by post.

Parish Readers

The new ministry of Parish Readers in the United Dioceses has recently been initiated by the Archbishop, The Most Revd. Dr. John Neill. This follows recommendations from the 2001 Diocesan synod, with the idea of providing lay support to the clergy. Two people with Christ Church connections have recently been admitted to the office of parish readers by the Archbishop. The first is Ken Rue, husband of our Honorary Editor and M.D. of Fodhla Printing, who do such a great job of printing this magazine. Ken was appointed to Whitechurch Parish in November. The second is Terry Lilburn, a member of the Friends' Committee, the intercessions group and visitors' desk volunteer. Terry was appointed to Kilternan Parish on 21st December, where he is under the watchful eye of Canon David Moynan. Both Ken and Terry are currently studying to become diocesan lay-readers.

Sunday morning coffee and tea

The Friends of the cathedral have for some years now have been providing members of the congregation with a cup of coffee or tea and biscuits in the crypt after the Sunday morning service. This enables visitors, regular members of the congregation, choir and clergy to meet informally. Being a non-parish church it is one of the few social occasions that provide such a forum. Funding of this is undertaken by the Friends' committee and the provision of the service is by volunteers drawn from members of the congregation and Friends. Currently we have a very small but very loyal group of people who give of their time to very useful ministry, and we would like to recruit some more. If every member of the Friends offered to come, it would mean just one Sunday every 15 years! Obviously that is not going to happen, and I realise that many of you do have other commitments on a Sunday morning. We try not to ask people to volunteer more than once every 3 months, but even once or twice a year would make a big difference. The timing does not interfere with taking part in the service, and there is the bonus of hearing our wonderful choirs (and the newly restored organ post -Easter), and you can be on your way home by 1 o'clock. For further details, please contact Terry Lilburn at 01-2600003 Thank-you!

Tutored wine-tasting evening.

It is widely recognised that knowledge of a subject adds to its greater enjoyment and even a little knowledge about wine can significantly increase one's appreciation and enjoyment.
Not so long ago, however, knowledge of wine outside the main producing countries was restricted to an elite few and guarded almost the way scripture was in the days before the reformation. All that has changed, and in this country wine consumption has never been higher. Much of the mystery has been debunked and wine education/appreciation classes are now held all over the country.
Wine tasting, as distinct from merely drinking wine, is much more than smelling, sipping and swallowing. The whole purpose is to form an opinion. "Do I like /dislike this wine and more importantly WHY? "Do I consider it value for money? Is it at its best, past its best or should it be kept?" These are just some of the reasons behind tasting. There is no magical trickery to wine tasting - anyone who can smell can taste. Once one has learnt the basics, it is very much a matter of experience and practice, just like learning to play an instrument or learn a language.
The aim of this evening is to introduce people to some of these basic techniques and to demonstrate the elements that distinguish one wine from another. If there is sufficient interest, it is hoped that a more ambitious programme covering six evenings will be held in the autumn.

The lecture will be accompanied by notes and visual aids. There will be additional notes for each participant. It is envisaged that 5 or 6 wines will be tasted. It must be emphasised that only tasting samples will be poured. This means that the maximum amount of wine that each person will be GIVEN, over the two hours, will be 25cl. or the equivalent of two glasses of wine.

The facilitator has been giving wine appreciation lectures for the last 12 years and is currently lecturing for the Wine Development Board of Ireland.
This is an attractively priced evening that offers education, edification and entertainment i.e it will be fun.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2004

Friends Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday 6 June – more details in the summer Newsletter.

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VOLUNTEERS CLEANING DAY

Due to the work on the stained glass windows in the South Transept this was cancelled in October 2003. ***The Spring cleaning day will be held on Saturday 3 April 2004.*** 10 am–2 pm refreshments will be provided. We need a lot of helpers to come and help clean the cathedral, because as a result of the work that was carried out on the organ over the past three months, a lot of dust and dirt has appeared.

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DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER FOR THE WINE TASTING

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APOLOGIES

For some strange reason a number of Friends did not receive the last Newsletter, though they were all posted at the same time. To those people that rang up about this matter - I trust you received the Newsletter second time round.

Lesley

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STATISTICS 2003

SERVICES	CONGREGATION	COMMUNICANTS
Average Sunday	166	127
Christmas pm & am	759	371
Easter pm & am	648	404
Epiphany	53	42
Ash Wednesday	152	74
Ascension Day	105	72
Pentecost	135	102
Trinity Sunday	211	182
Citizenship	320	

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Who's Who in Christ Church Cathedral

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The Dean's Vicar:	*The Revd Mark Gardner, (O) 677 8099, (H) 499 1571 deansvicar@cccdub.ie*
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	The Revd. Canon Dr. William Marshall
	The Revd. Douglas Slator, (H) 283 9395
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Visitor Services Officer:	*Ms. Katherine Bridges*
Secretarial:	*Vacant*
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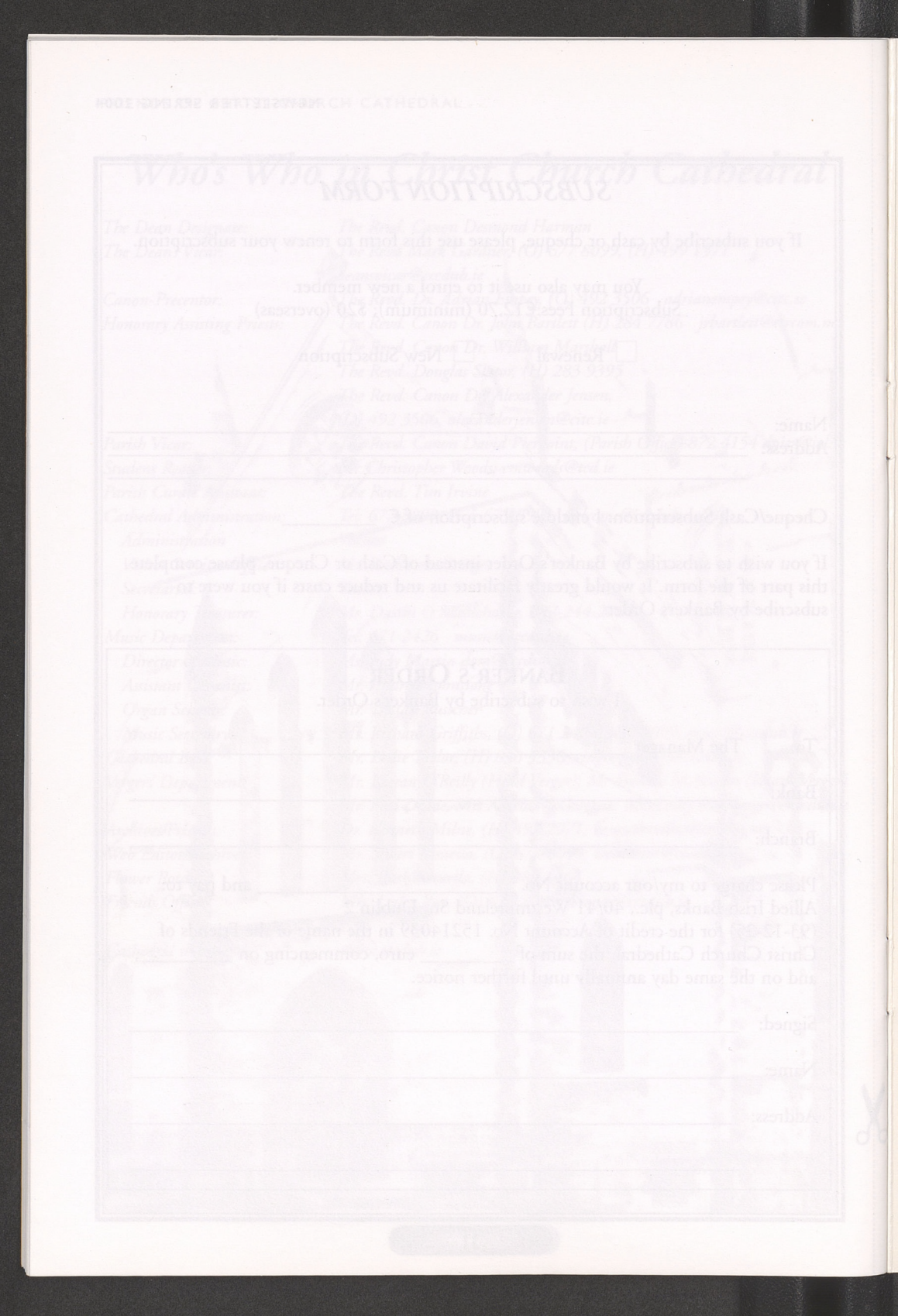
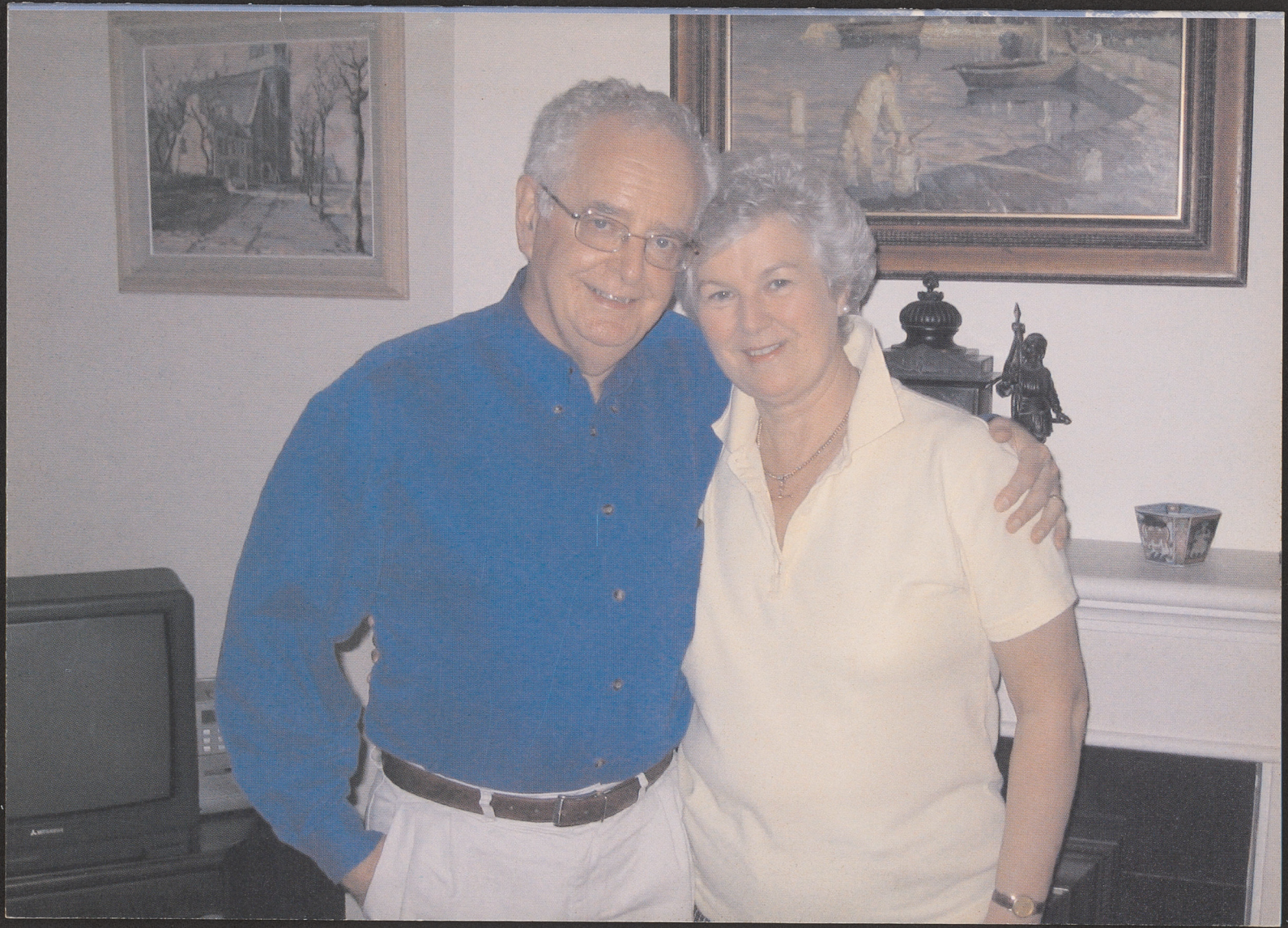


CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL DUBLIN

Principal events from February to June 2004

February		
1st	1700	Candlemas Eucharist and procession
9th	2000	Travers Smith Lecture, Wesley House, Lesson Park
22nd	1530	Evensong and commissioning of the Revd Mark Wilson as Chaplin of the Adelaide & Meath Hospital, Tallaght
24th	2000	Wine Tasting (Friends)
25th	1800	Sung Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes
March		
25th	1100	Feast of the Annunciation – Chapter Meeting
	1800	Festival Sung Eucharist
April		
4th-11th		Holy Week and Easter
7th	1800	Evensong ~ Girls' Choir
8th	1800	Maundy Thursday ~ Sung Eucharist and footwashing
9th	1730	Good Friday ~ Evensong sung by the cathedral choir
	2100	Tenebrae ~ Evensong sung by the cathedral choir
10th	1900	Vigil and Sung Eucharist
11th	1100	Easter Day ~ Festival Sung Eucharist, preacher the Archbishop
25th	2000	Installation of The Very Revd. Desmond Harman as Dean
May		
20th	2000	Introduction of new Book of Common Prayer 2004 Preacher the Dean of Durham
June		
6th	1100	Trinity Sunday ~ Sung Eucharist Lunch Annual General Meeting
	1530	Evensong